

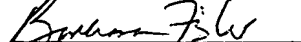
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IAP9 Rec'd PCT/PTO 20 DEC 2009

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Barbara Fisher

Date: December 20, 2005

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PCT International Application of )  
)  
GERMAINE, Gilbert, Robert, Bernard, et al. )  
)  
Int. Appln No.: PCT/EP2004/051248 )  
)  
Intl. Filing Date: June 25, 2004 )  
)  
PROCESS TO PREPARE A LUBRICATING BASE OIL )

December 20, 2005

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
Box PCT (DO/EO/US)  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.115**

Prior to taking up the case for examination, please amend the application as follows:

Please replace the abstract with the abstract following: